



## PERSONNEL CABINET

**Ernie Fletcher**  
Governor

200 Fair Oaks Lane, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone (502) 564-7430  
Fax (502) 564-7603  
<http://personnel.ky.gov>

**Brian J. Crall**  
Secretary

### MEMORANDUM

#### PERSONNEL MEMO 06-13

**TO:** All State Employees  
**FROM:** Brian J. Crall, Secretary  
**DATE:** July 24, 2006  
**RE:** Smoking Ban

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJC", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

Governor Fletcher recently issued an executive order that bans smoking at all state offices and enclosed structures operated by the Executive branch beginning Aug. 1. This executive order was made possible by the passage of House Bill 55, which became law on July 12 and gives the executive branch, local governments and universities the authority to prohibit smoking in government-owned buildings across the state.

This ban is intended to extend to all facilities operating under the exclusive authority of the Executive Branch. These facilities are encouraged, but are not required, to provide designated outdoor smoking areas. Universities are not covered by this executive order, but may institute their own smoking bans under HB 55. The exact applicability of this policy in facilities operated by or shared with either of the other two co-equal branches of government will be determined through joint agreement as the policy is implemented.

Health officials support the ban because smoke-free policies are considered crucial steps in reducing the amount of exposure to secondhand smoke and reducing smoking rates. Last month the United States Surgeon General issued a report on the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, including premature disease and death in nonsmoking kids and adults. Even further, many papers recently carried a front page story predicting that the next century will see 1 billion smoking related deaths. Such a prediction, if true, will impact Kentucky particularly hard in light of the facts that we have the highest smoking rate in the country and the second highest prevalence of pregnant women who smoke.

The Finance and Administration Cabinet and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will lead efforts to implement the smoking ban, which will begin on August 1, 2006. Any questions about which facilities will be specifically included under the ban may be directed to the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

To assist employees who wish to quit smoking, the state employee health insurance plan provides access to a new smoking cessation program. The benefit covers up to three months of nicotine replacement therapy for employees using the Kentucky Tobacco Quit Line or attending a Cooper/Clayton tobacco session class (offered at the Personnel Cabinet's Wellness Works Web site at <http://personnel.ky.gov/wellness/smokecess/>

For help in quitting smoking, call toll free (800)-QUITNOW or the tobacco coordinator in your local health department.